

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

Claim 4 stands objected to as being unclear. As now presented, it is clear that the plate-shaped center table extends between and above the inner pair of intake and mowing arrangements.

Claims 1-3, 6-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lippl. As now presented, claim 1 is thought to define subject matter which is patentable over Lipple.

Specifically, among other structure, claim 1 now requires that there be at least four intake and mowing arrangements and that an inner pair of these intake and mowing arrangements be mounted on opposite sides of a vertical plane extending in a direction of operation of the machine and to be mounted for rotating about respective upright axes so as to cut and convey crop first transversely outwardly from the plane, and then rearwardly. Also required is a transverse conveying channel that is located to the rear of the at least four mowing and intake and for there to be an intake channel arranged along the plane and at a downstream end of the transverse conveying channel. Finally, it is required that there be at least one driven conveying arrangement **located out of the transverse conveying channel** and mounted for rotation **about an upright axis**.

Lippl discloses a single row corn header 7 including a pair of intake and mowing arrangements 11 and 12 mounted for counter-rotation about respective upright axes in a direction for conveying cut corn stalks substantially **directly to the rear** into an intake channel, defined between opposite vertical stripper plates 25 and 26 arranged at opposite sides of a vertical plane extending centrally between the intake and mowing arrangements 11 and 12 in the direction of operation of the implement. Feed rolls 4, 5, 6 are provided at the rear of the intake channel for taking up the corn stalks and delivering them to a chopper/impeller 1 which cuts the stalks into pieces which are propelled through a discharge spout 2. No transverse channel is present in Lippl and none is required for the one row harvester 7. Also, any stalks which emerge from the intake channel defined by the stripper plates 25 and 26 will likely be lost since **no conveying arrangement is provided** for conveying the

emerging stalks back to the intake passage for being engaged by the feed rollers 4, 5, 6.

Claims 2, 3, 6-10 and 12 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are likewise thought allowable.

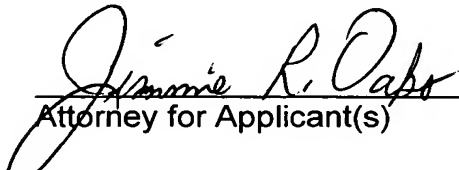
Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lippl in view of Wuebbles et al., with the Examiner stating that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the center table of Wuebbels et al. on the device of Lipple in order to catch misguided crop. It is respectfully submitted that this combination of references is in error since the table 30 disclosed by Wuebbels et al. would severely interfere with the operation of the Lippl one-row harvester, because it would span the throat through which the row of crop is fed between the intake and mowing arrangements 11 and 12. Thus, it is not thought that one skilled in the art would have modified Lippl in view of Wuebbels et al., in the manner proposed. Consequently claims 4 and 5 are thought allowable.

As concerns claim 11, it is noted that the Examiner considers this claim to contain allowable subject matter, and, since it depends from claim 1, it too is thought to be in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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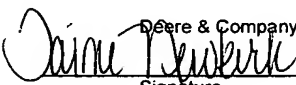
Respectfully,



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